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1874

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# Valedictory Address.

Rachel L. Bodley
1874

# VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

# TWENTY-SECOND GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

# Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania,

BY

RACHEL L. BODLEY, A. M.,

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND TOXICOLOGY.

March 13th, 1874.

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(PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.)

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PHILADELPHIA:
JAS. B. RODGERS CO., PRINTERS, 52 & 54 N. SIXTH STREET.
1874.

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THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT was held in Horticultural Hall, Philadelphia, on Friday, March 13th, 1874, at 12 M., when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President, T. Morris Perot, Esq., upon the following named ladies:

OLIVE DEWEY ALDRICH, N. Y.
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CELESTIA A. BENEDICT, Conn.
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ELLA M. RIDGWAY, Pa.
JEAN SINCLARE SAYLOR, Pa.

The Twenty-Fifth Annual Session of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania will open Thursday, October 1st, 1874.

WOMAN'S MEDICAL COLLEGE

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# VALEDICTORY.

LADIES, GRADUATES IN MEDICINE:

In the regular rotation of duty, as the years revolve, it falls to my lot to-day to address to you the parting salutations of those, who since your connection with the College, have assisted in your preparation for your great life-work. This hour closes this relation, and we bid you at once a sorrowful yet a joyful adieu.

For obvious reasons you will not expect from me the charge usually addressed to graduates in medicine, by my honored colleagues, on occasions like the present. From this omission, however, you cannot suffer, since these same honored teachers have, in the lecture-room and out of it, by precept and example, through the years of your association with them, taught you how responsible and sacred is the work of the physician. They have instructed you carefully concerning every phase of your prospective work, adding to didactic teaching practical instruction, thorough and oft-repeated, until on this, your graduation day, you need no additional words from the Valedictorian to deepen your profound convictions of the scope and dignity of the profession upon which you have entered. Your teachers have

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approved of the thesis and the examinations of each one of you, and by the impressive ceremony just witnessed, the Corporators and the Faculty of this College have cordially recommended you to the medical profession, and to society at large, as intelligent and capable physicians. Jealous still of your future reputation, the Faculty, through one of their number, have met you upon the threshold of this new life, and greeting you as peers, have presented you each with a copy of the Code of Medical Ethics, in token of the solicitude with which they follow you into the world outside the college, a solicitude regarding your practice, that it may be recognized as wise and prudent, and your conduct, that it may be governed by those rules of common morality and of christian charity which constitute the ethical code of the medical profession.

I cannot forget, neither can many of you, that there is one absent from this platform, whom we would fain have share with us the joy of to-day. Yours is the last class, any number of whose members have been instructed by Prof. Ann Preston.* When you shall have left us, no future class can carry to their fields of labor, memories of the words and works of the brave, loving woman, who was teacher and inspirer to us all.

In lieu of words of my own, allow me to permit her again to speak to you in the parting charge which she gave to the "Class of 1870," in that memorable Valedictory which proved her last.

"Ladies," (I quote her words) "it is meet that you go forth to your labors, full indeed, of that humility which belongs to wisdom, but full, also, of faith, hope and glowing enthusiasm. And yet, I know full well, that your joy to-day

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*Ann Preston, M. D., Professor of Physiology and Hygiene, and Dean of the College, died in Philadelphia, April 18th, 1872.

is softened and tinged with something akin to sadness. You feel indeed the beauty and greatness of your work, but mingled with this is self-distrust, a sense of responsibility, the thought of an untried future! It is true, you must encounter the trials, but if you avoid the prejudices, and keep your minds receptive and nobly ingenuous, you shall learn something from every person and circumstance about you, and be able to rejoice, day by day, in the consciousness of ever-widening knowledge, and continually increasing power for good."

* * * * * * * "Go forth prudently, truthfully, trusting in the eternal strength of the ever-living God, content 'to labor and to wait,' willing to accept toil and privation, as well as ease and victory, and fear not but that a true and glorious success shall be yours—that this shall be to you the 'Commencement' of a renewed life of enlarged activity, in which, amid cares and responsibilities, you shall often be led beside still waters, and lie down in green pastures."

To lift the drapery of silent thought which these earnest words enfold about you, and irreverently ask your attention to other themes, is not a grateful task, but the broad fields upon whose wealth I wish to direct your eyes, lie *before* us, and we will not linger.

The pathway to any worthy theme must, in these days, lead through or over, one great national epoch. We should not be loyal Americans, much less worthy denizens of the goodly city in which we assemble, did we forget in this hour of congratulation, that Freedom's Bell in the old State House on Chestnut Street, is shortly to strike the Century—*One!* The medical student in 1876 can well afford to look up from her note book to listen to the glad sound, and the lecturer afford to pause in her demonstration, while the old

bell rings out joyously. This great nation is astir, and the sounds of preparation for the centennial year arise on the shores of either ocean, and are prolonged across a vast continent. Neither are the women of the nation idle. The daughters of Philadelphia have, in labors already gracefully and successfully accomplished, given an earnest of what may be expected from them when the joy bells begin their chimes, two years hence. The professional woman, absorbed as she is in her routine of daily and hourly recurring duties, is necessarily excluded from active participation in the patriotic service. But there is an offering other than her money and the hearty "God-speed" which accompanies it, which she might bring, were it possible to weave intangible material into tangible form, a centennial offering upon which the world might gaze in awed wonder!

The precious offering is no other than a clear exhibit of the progress which has been made during the century in developing the "helping power" of woman. This hand of mine knows not the cunning adequate for the portrayal of a theme so majestic; neither has the centennial year come. Since, however, I seek to explore to-day for our farewell study, that province of woman's kingdom, which lies in action rather than in book-knowledge, I am unavoidably brought face to face with this most forcible of womanly characters in life, that of the Helper.

There is an old legend said to have been current among our forefathers of the British Isles, to the effect that the Nineteenth Century was to be the Century of Woman. Idle though the words of the legend may have been upon the lips of those who doubtingly uttered them, we who in retrospective mood scan the years of the century already gone, can attest that the prophecy hastens to its fulfillment!

We go back to Eden for woman's divine commission, conferred in the title, "help-meet." But we vainly seek, in

the history of subsequent ages, for her full possession of this sacred character; here and there through the centuries gleam out solitary instances of great deliverers, or of women of superior mental accomplishments, instances which are prophetic, rather than immediately helpful to the day and generation into which these women were born.

Still, down through the ages has sounded that royal title, "help-meet," the jest and the by-word of the thoughtless, but the solemn word which the unprejudiced and honorable among men have pondered in their hearts, knowing that in its divine significance it must mean the helper of the complete man, the helper not alone of the physical, but of the intellectual and the moral being.

Upon American shores, the century of Independence opened cold and gray, as regarded educational opportunities for women, but the life which coursed impetuously through the veins of the young nation, gave itself after political freedom, to knowledge, knowledge for all. Thus it came to pass that the district school early attained the importance of a recognized department of instruction, and under the humble roof which sheltered the youthful pupils of a district, the sister and the brother were taught together, and kept pace each with the other. Next in the order of events of educational importance for women, followed the separate school of a higher grade, in which era the heroic Mary Lyon appears as leader, and the elegant and accomplished Mrs. Willard as a worthy coadjutor. Each of these ladies represented a different phase of the culture sought, and each type of instruction proved potent for good throughout the land. But the progress which was inevitable as the result of this wide dissemination of knowledge in the homes, not of privileged classes, but of the people, outgrew these seminaries, and the so-called Higher Education for Women budded into being, and good men and true, knocked at the doors of State

legislatures, asking for charters for colleges in the exclusive interests of women. The first of these, was granted in 1846 by the Legislature of Ohio.*

The development of this third educational era has been slower than either of the preceding, as is attested by the fact, that not until fifteen years later, or until 1861, was the idea of Colleges for Women enshrined in material form worthy of the name; then, near Poughkeepsie-on-the-Hudson, arose a palatial edifice, capaciously endowed, the offering of a good man's whole fortune upon an altar which never before knew gift so costly. Through the centuries to come, let American women remember and honor the name of Matthew Vassar!

Twenty-eight years have been added to 1846, and as yet the college standard of education for young women has not permeated the masses composing American society. But in this fact the intelligent observer finds no cause for discouragement. The Indian maize germinates, attains goodly proportions, bears its fruit, and perishes, all in a single season; but the oak, which is to afford shade and shelter to generations of men, germinates with deliberation, and accomplishes but tardy growth through many a summer.

The college standard of education for women, planted twenty-eight years ago, has taken firm root, and has attained at least, respectable stature. No more propitious sign that the time of rich blossoming, with promise of fair fruitage hastens on, could be demanded, than the profound agitation which even now startles educational circles in the United States and Great Britain.

Prof. Orton, of Vassar College, has recently given to the American public a closely printed volume of 324 pages,

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* The Act to Incorporate the "Wesleyan Female College of Cincinnati," passed the Legislature of Ohio, February 24, 1846.

being a reprint of representative articles which have lately appeared in America and England, touching the liberal education of women. Many of these papers emanate from the highest collegiate authorities acknowledged on either side of the Atlantic, and they reveal an earnest grappling with a great social problem. Rightly interpreted, all this means that in the highest walks of intellectual endeavor, woman is eventually to be acknowledged "help-meet."

During the past years, in college curriculums of study, she has been required to cling to the hand of her brother, wasting much strength in the endeavor to make the length of his steps the measure of her own. In the pursuit of physical science she has been compelled to attempt to throw stones as her brother threw them, and if the testimony of grave college presidents may be accepted, she has strangely failed in her laudable endeavor! But all criticism of this sort is now to have an end. Out of this disquiet, out of this alleged short-coming, and this unrest, are to come forth curriculums of study for women, in science, in literature and art, as thorough and comprehensive as those of Yale or Harvard, or Oxford, and yet not the same, complements of these!

It is for this wise adaptation in harmony with the facts of nature, that society now waits, nor will it wait long, and then shall be seen through the years to come, not the exceptional woman, but womanhood attaining to the dignity of co-equal helper in the realm of mind. Yet more completely in the future shall she be found doing that portion of the world's intellectual work which belongs to her, not in man's way, but in her own way, the womanly way as distinguished from the manly way, and both shall be alike honored and honorable, for they twain are one.

In professional schools for women, this word accomplished, is no longer prophecy. Your Alma Mater, the first college

in the world chartered for the education of women as physicians, has rendered valuable aid in promoting this higher and broader view touching womanly work. The women physicians graduated from this College, have in their lives, and in their professional experience, for twenty years past, been deciding what *a-priori* judgment could not decide, the particular place and the particular sphere of action which belong to the woman physician as especially befitting her. I rejoice to add that the place found has proved an honored and useful one, and the sphere of action, filled with sacred ministries, blessed alike to her who gives and to those who receive. Not only is this true of the large number whose homes are to be found throughout the chain of states and territories which span the continent, but also of that little band of our Alumnæ, who in the Orient have found medical work disputed by none, a womanly work, whose outlook suggests that the education of women physicians in America, has been no accidental circumstance in point of time, but a valuable stone in the marvelous mosaic of divine providence.

Woman's Work for Woman in Foreign Lands, as a *distinctive* movement, dates to the year 1860. While the fiery waves of a fierce intra-national conflict were surging to and fro, filling homes with sorrow, and engaging the hearts and hands of American women in hospital and sanitary service, the doors of a great work in the lands of the eastern hemisphere opened noiselessly, and lo! revealed to the gaze of bereaved and consecrated American womanhood, were possibilities which generations of earnest toilers cannot exhaust, a womanly work for woman, which woman alone can perform. As a humanitarian movement, setting aside all its high moral and spiritual aspects, this may be classed among those momentous events which

themselves constitute epochs in history. Hundreds of millions of women, sufferers in body, and utterly darkened as to all resources of the intellect and spirit, are now accessible to the willing and capable womanly worker. How effectively American women are helping these less-favored sisters is set forth by a recent writer in the following figures: "The five Women's Missionary Societies thus far organized in the United States, have in the twelve years ending April, 1873, collected and disbursed $697,841.50. The appropriations of the last year reported, were expended in supporting one hundred and ninety missionary ladies from this country, scattered in carefully chosen centres, in India, Turkey, China, Japan, Africa, Siam, Burmah and Persia." A significant fact also stated, is, that three hundred native women had been employed during the year, as helpers, by these societies in the several stations. Taught themselves, they at once begin to teach others, and who can estimate the beneficent results from the ever-widening circle of influence so healthful?

To the ladies of Philadelphia belongs the honor of grafting upon this teaching work, the ministry of the woman physician. When, after the Commencement of this College, in 1869, a lady from the class of that year felt constrained, from her most sacred convictions of duty, to offer herself as a physician for India, two societies located in this city eagerly listened to her proposal, and since both could not employ her, the senior society gracefully yielded to the younger in point of years, and turned to the same source for like assistance. This was found in the classes which graduated from our College in 1870 and 1871. These three ladies, now located respectively in Bareilly, Calcutta and Allahabad, India, were the first medical ladies sent forth to Asia. One other, a graduate of last year's class, has followed, and through that overcoming faith, which alone could inspire

the use of instrumentality so feeble, in the presence of necessities so vast, under the patronage of the society which supports her, has opened her humble Dispensary amid the teeming population of Peking, China.

Swain, Seelye, Seward and Combs! These honored christian ladies form *our* constellation among the millions of the East! Their work has been successful from the first, and increases each year in scope and usefulness. No higher tribute to their acknowledged capability and success could be offered, than that paid by the Principal of the Church of England Mission, Delhi, India, who, when last August the directorship of the Woman's Hospital of the Mission was made vacant by death, applied for a successor, not to English homes or hospitals, but to the Alma-Mater of these ladies.

As the moment of our separation draws near, I realize that this world-wide work upon which we have been dwelling, is in its application an individual work, and that whithersoever your steps may turn, these minds and hands of yours are henceforth to be reckoned important factors in the same. We send you forth to its doing with confidence, and yet with the tenderness which love begets, we beg you to ever remember, that as you shall valiantly acquit yourselves, or ingloriously succumb to circumstances of whatever character, the great world, no less than this College, will be the richer or the poorer for your having lived.

In the character of the educated physician you will find your most coveted labors and your highest rewards, but it is not unfitting for me to remind you, that as citizens you have another, a less spoken of, but scarcely less important character to bear in the communities in which you may dwell, that of the educated woman *per se*, the leader and the inspirer, as well as the healer! Your Alma-Mater claims,

at your hands, that in this capacity you do a work for her, in the years immediately before you. The old question of woman's mental capacity, and of her fitness for the profession of medicine, having been forever settled by the worthy pioneers who have preceded you, there remains now for *you* the golden opportunity of arresting the attention, in behalf of professional study, of the younger women among your patients and associates, by the persuasive character of your unostentatious learning.

Adopt the *educo* idea, in your attempts to check the torrent of worldliness and frivolity which sweeps down like a flood upon our blooming American girls. Do not lecture them for their folly beyond the necessity which present exigencies may demand, but let your neatly furnished and attractive home, and your own cheerful life, continually repeat to them, "Come"!

The microscope will be upon your table, with its never-exhausted store of nature's charming secrets, the test-tube rack and chemical reagents, will be found in a convenient closet, ready to respond in accents of color, and of varying physical condition, to your questions concerning their marvels. Once thoroughly arouse the attention of the young graduates of our Seminaries and High Schools, by instrumentalities such as these, and you will have accomplished much towards the creation of a generous supply of students for the halls of our new college building, soon to arise! To its Alumnæ, more than to all other helps combined, must the college look for this increase of educational interest in the community, and consequent increase of students in its lecture-rooms.

Another duty incumbent upon you after the faithful ministration to the sick and afflicted, is the continued cultivation of scientific knowledge. By careful pains-taking

study, acquaint yourselves with the developments in science which the years may bring. In this way only can you keep yourselves *in* the work, and what may be better still, in the fullness of years be an integral part *of* the work, being numbered in the vanguard of original investigators, to whom the world, tardily, perhaps, but surely, does homage.

For an accomplished woman microscopist, the department of experimental science waits; and yet Prof. Frey, Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Histology, in the University of Zurich, who has instructed a number of ladies in his speciality, writes recently: "Precisely in microscopy, an important department of modern medicine, has woman a future, according to my conviction." That I should remind you that in the department of chemistry there is an unexhausted demand for research, and room for the workers also, will not surprise you. Sharing the convictions of the distinguished professor just quoted, I would assert that chemistry has a womanly side, beyond the possibilities of its kindred sciences, and there must yet arise expounders of the same. Why not upon American soil, and from among the graduates of our College?

Apropos of the pleasant hours we have spent together, in lecture-room and laboratory, let me remind you that Chemistry holds a centennial next August, beside an honored grave at the meeting of the waters of the Susquehanna, amid the picturesque scenery of interior Pennsylvania. The hand that plunged the glowing taper into the primal jar of dephlogisticated air, long since crumbled into dust beneath that simple head-stone, but science will not forget, through centuries to come, the historic receiver, burning-lens and taper, neither willingly let die the name of Priestley, who, in August 1774, discovered Oxygen.

To a still higher and nobler consecration of your powers, I would direct your thoughts in my farewell words. You enter upon your active duties at a time, when beyond the ages which have preceded it,—it is glorious for a woman to live and toil!

As we have discovered in the rapid review which we have made of the century just closing, the progress in the education of woman has been of slow growth, but it has been a natural and healthful one. From the high position which you and your compeers occupy, you cannot, therefore, be displaced. Realize the dignity of this position, and be humbled by its elevation!

The toiling throng, whether in the marts of trade or in the pathways of science, find it difficult now, as in the past, to answer Pilate's question, "What is truth?" Keeping step with these throngs, and yet privileged to move apart from them, you may, and you will, if true to your Christian faith, and your womanly nature, obtain answers which are denied those who walk by sight alone. Remember that these glimpses of truth are not your private possession, but are to be freely given to those who hunger, freely as the Father bestows His sunshine and His showers.

Thus living, rare opportunities will be yours for guiding, guarding and moulding humanity about you, and through these, humanity to be. I charge you as those who must give account, guide skillfully, guard conscientiously, mould wisely, and all this, in the interest of home, of purity, and of Heaven!

E. A. Varney Brownell
West Concord
Vt.

E. A. Varney Brownell
West Concord

# The College Story

*BY THE DEAN*

RACHEL L. BODLEY, A.M., M.D.

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**Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania,**

**Commencement Day,**

MARCH 17, 1881.

COOPER MEDICAL COLLEGE
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# VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

# TWENTY-NINTH GRADUATING CLASS

OF THE

# Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania,

BY

RACHEL L. BODLEY, A. M., M. D.

**Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology,**

*MARCH 17th, 1881.*

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*(The statistics in this Address have been revised to date of publication, April 6th, 1881.)*

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RACHEL L. BODLEY, M. D.,
Professor of Chemistry and Toxicology.

BENJAMIN B. WILSON, M. D.,
Professor of the Principles and Practice of Surgery.

CLARA MARSHALL, M. D.,
Professor of Materia Medica and General Therapeutics.

FRANCES EMILY WHITE, M. D.,
Professor of Physiology and Hygiene.

ANNA E. BROOMALL, M. D.,
Professor of Obstetrics.

JAMES B. WALKER, M. D.,
Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine.

HANNAH T. CROASDALE, M. D.,
Professor of Diseases of Women and Children.

.....
Professor of Anatomy.

J. GIBBONS HUNT, M. D.,
Professor of Microscopy and Histology.

C. NEWLIN PEIRCE, D. D. S.,
Professor of Dental Physiology and Pathology.

W. W. KEEN, M. D.,
Lecturer on Clinical Anatomy.

EDWARD T. BRUEN, M. D.,
Lecturer on Pathology.

E. E. MONTGOMERY, M. D.,
Lecturer on Dermatology.

MARY E. ALLEN, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Chemistry.

EMILIE B. DU BOIS, M. D.,
Demonstrator of Anatomy.

LEWIS E. SAYRE, Ph. G.
Lecturer on Pharmacy, and Demonstrator of Practical Pharmacy.

SOPHIA PRESLEY, M. D.,
Instructor in Surgery.

IDA E. RICHARDSON, M. D.,
Instructor in Practice of Medicine.

FRANCES N. BAKER, M. D.,
Instructor in Obstetrics.

ELEANOR E. GALT, M. D.,
Instructor in Materia Medica.

RACHEL L. BODLEY, M. D., DEAN,

***North College Avenue and 21st Street.***

**The Twenty-Ninth Annual Commencement was held in Association Hall, Philadelphia, on Thursday, March 17th, 1881, at 12 M., when the Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred by the President pro tem., Hon. W. S. Pierce, upon the following-named ladies:**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Ellen E. Brown, | Mass. | Alma A. Lapham, | New Bruns. |
| Mary W. Case, A. B., | N. Y. | Georgietta T. McClelland, | Ohio. |
| E. V. P. B. Culbertson, A. B., | Ind. | Addie H. McDaniel, | N. H. |
| Ella L. Dexter, | Mass. | Hannah J. Price, | Penna. |
| Mary Jordan Findley, | Ohio. | M. Elizabeth Reifsnyder, | Penna. |
| Mary P. Hallowell, A. B., | Penna. | Florence Preston Stubbs, | Penna. |
| Caroline A. Hemiup, B. A., | N. Y. | Martha M. Waldron, A. B., | N. Y. |
| Rebecca S. Hunt, A. B., | Penna. | Minnie Palmer Washburn, | Ohio. |
| Anna H. Johnson, A. B., | N. J. | Mary Willets, A. B., | Penna. |
| Mary A. Kolbe, | Missouri. | | |

**The Thirty-Second Annual Winter Session will open Thursday, October 6th, 1881.**

# VALEDICTORY.

LADIES, GRADUATES IN MEDICINE:

For the twenty-ninth time the College doors have swung open on commencement day, and you, a group of daughters, have passed out across the threshold of Alma Mater. We, of the Faculty, whose duty and pleasure it is to serve within the portals, have watched you sadly, as each receiving her well-earned degree has passed onward and outward, to return to us no more. We regard you with honest pride, for we esteem you thoroughly equipped for the work which lies before you, and we only detain you in this glad hour of your personal history, to offer our sincere congratulations ere we say farewell. Yesterday, you were our students, to-day, our peers; we recognize the changed relation, and heartily wish each one of you "God speed" on the journey of professional life now auspiciously begun.

Why these congratulations annually bestowed, should take the form of a lecture addressed to graduates at a time when they are overwearied with lectures cannot be satisfactorily shown, any more than the reason why the name "commencement" should be applied to the occasion which evokes the address. Be the reasons what they may, the literature of medical commencements is not without its peculiar merit and its economic uses, replete as it is with valuable suggestions, with sound counsel and with lofty inspiration which bear fruit in useful lives, years after the flowers offered on commencement day have faded.

As undergraduates, you have been privileged to hear on recent commencement occasions, forcible words of womanly wisdom touching our profession, its duties and responsibilities, concerning medical education, and all the varied and momentous interests which radiate from medical work as a centre. How can I as your valedictorian of 1881 supplement this valuable teaching on the part of my colleagues? The reply to this question was a subject of anxious thought throughout the early winter. The answer came to me at last: I will show these young graduates the work accomplished by Alma Mater in the person of her daughters throughout the thirty years gone; this shall be my parting lesson for them! In the chemical laboratory we are accustomed to demonstrate each truth as taught, by recourse to test-tube,

reagent and balance: the same method applied to the subject of the medical education of women, would demand the crucial test of actual living applied to those who voluntarily have become exponents of a grand social and educational reform.

No time was to be lost, for it was past mid-winter when my resolution was taken, and I at once prepared, and on the 10th of February mailed, printed questions to all the Alumnæ of the College. There are 276 of these, less 32 who have laid their burdens down by the way side, and have entered upon their reward.

These questions were eight in number, and were designed to cover the whole ground of a life work, as to its professional character, its pecuniary rewards, social status, teaching work, membership in medical societies, and last but by no means least, the influence of the study and practice of medicine upon woman's holiest relations, as wife and mother.

Why should I deny that my heart failed me before the mail bags had received their entire burden. Would these earnest women permit the searching scrutiny of Alma Mater? Might they not resent the inquiry as unwarranted, and give no sign in return? I waited: on Thursday night the mailing was completed, and on Saturday following the papers began to flit back: steadily by night and by day they came, until on March 1st, 134 had been received. Nor did the answers then cease: on March 2d, Utah responded, and on March 4th, California: but not until March 10th was snow-bound Manitoba heard from. India and China and European lands could not respond in season, although thither also the inquiries were sent. These answers so prompt in their coming and so complete in their details, have in a manner which is quite remarkable gathered these College Alumnæ about me, and during the hours I have devoted to the preparation of this address, I have been among them and have caught their spirit. I propose, therefore, to present to you and to our assembled friends composing the large audience gathered in honor of your graduation, this college story. I shall tell it simply, as it has been told to me, in figures and in statistics, which admit neither of coloring nor exaggeration.

Prof. Turnbull Bolton, at the annual commencement of our sister institution, the Woman's Medical College of the New York Infirmary, last spring, selected as the theme of his address, "The Early Practice of Medicine by Women," or during the period dating from the earliest antiquity to the middle of the nineteenth century, or about the time of the graduation of the first American woman in medicine. If this outlook be limited by the graduation of the first American woman, then by the first woman of modern times, for it this reform, America leads the world!

This record presented by Prof. Bolton, in so masterly a manner as to interest English friends of our cause to the extent of a recent reprint in pamphlet form in London, is by no means inspiriting. Exceptional women loom up here and there throughout the centuries and by their profound knowledge and their professional skill, prove the capability of women to grapple with abstruse subjects, and to put in practice the knowledge thus obtained, but this is all. No progress is apparent. Educational opportunities are not for the masses, women are undisciplined as to preparatory education, and the blossom of professional training and professional achievement, is rare and uncertain, as the blossoming of the aloe tree.

Very different in character is the larger company of whom I discourse to-day, the graduates of a single medical college, and that our own, graduated during a third of a century. Different, because they have come up to us through the gate-way of our best colleges and seminaries for women, and thus prepared to receive a professional education, they have profited thereby.

There sit upon the platform with us, three members* of the original Board of Corporators in 1850, steadfast friends, whose value to our cause we thoroughly appreciate. One of these gentlemen has attended every commencement since the first, and has beheld each class of graduates as they presented themselves for the Degree. He is privileged in having beheld them all; we are privileged with him to-day in calling them back, bringing each her record with her.

The whole number of graduates, as has been already stated, is 276. Of these, 32 have died. Of the remaining 244, 189 have responded since February 16th, 1881.†

Of this number 166 responded affirmatively to the question: "Are you now engaged in active medical practice?" 23 respond in the negative.

The reasons for the negative response are as follows: Domestic Duties, 8; Philanthropic Work, 1; Ill Health, 6: Retired, 3; No reason assigned, 5.

The second question pertains to the predominating character of the medical practice of the 166 who are thus actively engaged, whether gynæcological, obstetrical, surgical or medical. The responses are as follows:

Gynæcological practice predominating, 32; obstetrical, 10; medical, 10; surgical, 3; general practice, without discrimination,

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* Hon. Wm. S. Peirce, Wm. J. Mullen, John Longstreth.

† Of the 55 non-resident alumnæ whose question-papers have not been returned to date, 25 have either reported in person or by letter to the Dean during year ending January, 1881, and she thus knows them to be engaged in active practice. Three (3) others are known to be abroad, pursuing their professional studies. There remain, therefore, only 27 whose present employment is unknown.

37; gynæcological and obstetrical, 23; gynæcological and surgical, 6; gynæcological and medical, 29; obstetrical and medical, 9; surgical and medical, 7. Total, 166.

The third question relates to the social status of the woman physician in the community in which she dwells.

One hundred and fifty-seven answer this question, and of these 150 report cordial social recognition. These answers are often emphasized and frequently accompanied by testimonials in proof thereof. Seven report negatively. These seven dwell in communities which may not be named here, since the announcement would be accompanied by possible annoyance to the ladies interested. These exceptions recall the character of public opinion twenty-five years ago in many communities which are now happily advanced and reformed to the extent of permitting every woman to cultivate her talents and to engage heartily in every good work her hands may find to do.

The fourth question interrogates in reference to the work accomplished by the woman practitioner as resident or visiting physician in hospital, asylum, charitable institution, or as physician in college or school for girls. To this question 159 make reply: 60 are thus engaged. The record in this regard is inspiriting. In our own State of Pennsylvania one is physician in charge of Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia; one is resident physician to department for women in State Hospital for the Insane of the Southeastern District of Pennsylvania; one is assistant physician State Hospital for the Insane, Southeastern District of Pennsylvania; one is assistant physician Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg.

In New York, one is resident physician in Nursery and Child's Hospital, Staten Island; one is assistant resident physician, same institution; one is resident physician House of Mercy for Girls, New York City. Eight are assistant physicians in the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia, and in the New England Hospital for Women and Children, in Boston; besides these, several are consulting and visiting physicians to hospitals and charitable institutions, members of consulting boards; one alumna occupies the responsible position of physician to the State Industrial School, Lancaster, Mass.; others have in the past occupied similar positions, as the position of resident in our own Woman's Hospital, resident in the N. E. Hospital for Women and Children, Boston, in the late Mission Hospital of Philadelphia, etc., etc. Besides this service in hospitals, several record themselves as resident or visiting physicians to schools for girls; one as auxiliary visitor to the State Board of Charities in Massachusetts, etc., etc. One states that she was City Physician for one year to the city of Springfield, Mass. Another is now Health Officer to the city of Charlotte, Michigan. The frequent

mention in the answers to this fourth question of being physician (usually without salary) to "Erring Woman's Refuge," "Home for Unfortunate Women," "Orphans' Home," "Home for Girls," "Reformatory School for Girls," "Infirmary for Infants," "Children's Home," "Home for Aged and Infirm Persons," etc., etc., suggests the wide and fruitful field opened by medical work to true-hearted women, skillful and wise physicians, wherein they may accomplish great and lasting good for their race.

The fifth question relates to the monetary value of the medical practice per year, and is answered by 76 ladies.

24 as much as $1000, and less than $2000.
20 as much as $2000, and less than $3000.
10 as much as $3000, and less than $4000.
5 as much as $4000, and less than $5000.
3 as much as $5000, and less than $15,000.

Four report sums varying from $15,000 to $20,000 per year. Ten report less than $1000 per year.

The average income is found to be $2907.30 to each of 76.

The four who report the exceptional large sums, are established practitioners, and have reported the amount each year for several years.

These sums may probably be relied upon by the social statistician as fair averages of the income of women physicians, since many are careful to state that they give only actual receipts, as indicated by bank-book or ledger, and several decline to attempt to reply, stating as the reason that they are too busy to make an accurate estimate, and they are unwilling to hazard a guess. Several, who make no estimate, reply that they are able to support comfortably families varying in size (frequently stating the number in family), father, mother and brothers; mother and sisters; several nephews and nieces, etc., etc. Three alumnæ report having accumulated sums sufficient to permit them to retire from active service.

Question sixth referred to the work for which woman is pre-eminently fitted, that of medical teacher, and specified separately institutions of learning, and popular audiences of women. Fifty-five answer this question affirmatively. Among these are seven professors in medical colleges in Philadelphia and New York, and twice that number of lecturers and instructors in our own College and in the Woman's Medical College of Chicago. The statements which have come in, relative to the popular courses of lectures on medical subjects for women are highly gratifying. Sometimes the audiences have been large ones in cities; sometimes they have been "talks in my office, with my patients;" sometimes "instruction of my office students," and often, "lectures on physiology and hygiene" in girls' schools, and oftener still, as private letters, which have accompanied answers, have stated, the teaching has been of the character set forth in the

letter of an alumna who is practicing far out on the Western prairies: "I am daily thankful for the privilege of teaching women (in their homes) how to take care of themselves and how to preserve the health of their children."

The seventh question is the inquiry which, in later years, has assumed with us especial interest in deciding the professional status of women physicians, viz., that of membership in medical societies. Sixty-eight reply affirmatively to this question: "Are you a member of a county, State, or other local medical society" Of these 4 reside in California, 1 in Connecticut, 1 in Delaware, 4 in Illinois, 1 in Indiana, 3 in Kansas, 2 in Massachusetts, 5 in Michigan, 2 in Minnesota, 1 in Missouri, 1 in New Hampshire, 15 in New York, 7 in Ohio, 15 in Pennsylvania, 3 in Rhode Island, 1 in Tennessee, 2 in Wisconsin—seventeen States in all.

The professional ability of many of these ladies has been recognized by election to membership in more than one State or local medical organization. Thus, the accomplished author of the Boylston prize essay for the year 1876, reports membership in six societies, five in New York city and in the American Medical Association. Another alumna, practicing in the largest city in Ohio, reports membership in four societies, three prominent local organizations, and the American Medical Association. Again, especial distinction has been conferred upon others by their enjoyment of sole membership as women practitioners of medicine, as in the Boston Gynæcological Society, where membership has been accorded to but two women, and both of these are alumnæ of our college. Seventy-six different medical societies in all, throughout the United States, have thus honored women. Five of our graduates have represented their respective State societies in the American Medical Association, viz.: Delegates from Rhode Island, Ohio, Illinois, New York and Tennessee. But eight women have as yet enjoyed this honor of representation in the American Medical Association; the preponderance is therefore in favor of our college—five out of eight. An alumna, practicing for some years in Minnesota, writes that she holds the appointment of delegate to the American Medical Association for 1881. Montgomery County and Delaware County (Pa.) Medical Societies have each elected a college alumna as a delegate to the Pennsylvania Medical Society, which will meet in Lancaster in May, 1881.

One alumna writes from Iowa that on the 3d of February, 1881, she was invited by the Dean of the Medical Department of Iowa State University to accept the position of Member of the Medical Examining Committee of the Medical Department of the Iowa State University.

While Pennsylvanians may be gratified to note the number (15) admitted to membership throughout the State, the member-

ship in regular Medical Societies in the County of Philadelphia is far from satisfactory. The papers have come in from all our Philadelphia Alumnæ (30 in number) with the brief answer, "No."

To the last question, (the eighth), 61 make answer. The inquiry is worded thus: "What influence has the study and practice of medicine had upon your domestic relations as wife and mother?" As it is concerning the phase of influence suggested by this question that our critics make their severest comments, so it is the most difficult to present truthfully the impressions made by the answers received. I have decided to let the statistics speak for themselves.

The answers of the fifty-two married ladies who respond to this question tabulate as follows: Influence, favorable, 45; not entirely favorable, 6; unfavorable, 1.

Eleven unmarried ladies reply to this question after striking out from the line, the words "wife and mother." Of these, three state that the study and practice of medicine have prevented marriage, while a fourth states definitely that she has "remained single for reasons entirely distinct from her profession." The following answers from unmarried women are given as fair specimens of the remainder:

"Never married, but have found time and means to care for several orphan nephews and nieces."

Another: "I hope I am more patient and persevering, withal a better woman than I ever could have been without the discipline which the study and practice of medicine has afforded me."

Returning to the answers of married women, because these possess the greater general interest, I remark that the song of domestic life as I have listened with ear attent, has been sung in no minor key. In the melody (as the tabulated statement shows) are a few discordant notes, but these are such as a master might throw in to enhance the harmonies of his strain. For example, a thoroughly conscientious mother writes from her nursery, where three quite young children claim the mother's ministry, "The *study* of medicine is of great benefit, but the practice often interferes with my duty to my family." The clear, pure quality of the replies, as a whole, is truly exhilarating, for example: "Purifying and ennobling. Married a physician since I began practice. Am the mother of a boy of eight years of age." Another: "I keep house, and care for husband and three children as I would if not in practice; perhaps not quite as well, however."

Another: "I have not been less a wife or mother. My duties as such have never been neglected. At times I may have been more taxed than if I had not these duties to attend to." Another wife and mother, whose successful training of three children now in adult life entitles her to an opinion: "I think if the history of the families of women-physicians were written it would be found

that their children are well cared for, well trained, well educated; all this, and household duties not neglected. * * * Women who study medicine are watchful and careful." Another: "As wife my duties have never been interfered with; as a mother I have been incalculably benefited. * * * My husband is also a physician. I am often enabled to assist him with his cases, both in diagnosis and treatment, and I often find his advice of great value to me. We are, mutually, a help to each other."

In reviewing these statistics, which are probably the first ever collected in regard to medical women, we may discover that they possess unusual interest in several particulars. *First*—The small number of deaths which have occurred in this body of hard-working women claims our attention; in thirty years there have been only thirty-two deaths (out of 276). One of the early objections to the practice of medicine by women was the prejudicial influence such exhausting work might have upon the life of the general practitioner. Facts have not confirmed this fear; on the contrary, the study and practice of medicine has, in the judgment of more than one woman-physician, saved her own life. It has not been an unusual experience that women "who have been engaged in the practice of medicine a dozen years have been found to possess more vigor and power of endurance at the expiration of that time than they possessed in the beginning of their professional career." A member of the second graduating class (1853), and therefore in an especial sense one of the pioneers among women physicians, kindly sent a long and delightful letter with her replies to questions, and as her testimony is valuable, by permission, I make an extract from her letter:

"Thirty years ago, people used to say, 'If the women physicians succeed, only large cities will be benefited, because no woman can ever endure the hardships of a country practice.' This determined me to take a practice in the country, for, I thought, Alma Mater would be glad to have this obstacle removed. I bought a horse and saddle, also one hundred dollars' worth of medicine, and settled in a small village in Pennsylvania, with the Susquehanna river on one side, and mountains on the other. I often rode ten miles in the night as well as in the day. I made friends, and my practice increased rapidly. The second year I bought a carriage, with side lamps, which was much more comfortable than riding on horseback. * * * Every one had a friendly greeting for me. The poor and rich alike opened their doors to me. If I had a hard day's ride, I was sure to have invitations to stop to dinner and have my horse fed, and often my horse would be left in the stable and a fresh one brought out for my use the rest of the day. Of course, these many acts of kindness could not banish the care and anxiety, and above all,

the great responsibility with which I ever felt burdened; but they did seem to give to the snow some warmth, they seemed to make the swollen creeks less violent, the mountain precipices less dangerous. * * * I practiced in the village three years and averaged three dollars per day. Then I married and removed about two miles on the other side of the river on my husband's farm. Here it was much easier; my husband never allowed me to harness my horse, and if I had a call in the night he always drove for me. Eighteen months after my marriage my only child, a daughter, was born. * * * After practicing thirteen years my family thought they needed me at home and that I needed rest. I, therefore, gave up practice. I now go out occasionally, but my visits are gratuitous."

This was an experience of twenty years ago. To prove that younger women are still able to endure, I quote from a letter, received with the replies, from an alumna (class of 1875), a young wife and mother, practicing in Nebraska; she says: "During three weeks since the holidays I did not have a night's unbroken rest. We have had an unusually cold winter, with deep snows, and I have had hard work to attend to my country practice. I have been compelled to carry a shovel in my sleigh and shovel myself out when the snow gets too deep."

The *second* particular which attracts our attention is the small number of women who have failed to devote themselves to the practice of medicine after graduating. Having obtained her degree and, in later years, her hospital training also, each has addressed herself to the practice of medicine as a lifework; marriage has not interfered with this work as, theoretically, it might be supposed to do. Of the whole number of graduates, fifty-four have married since graduation, seventy-five having been married women when they studied medicine. Of the fifty-four who have married since graduation, only five have desisted from practice on account of marriage; many have achieved brilliant success since assuming the duties and responsibilities of married life; this statement would be still more emphatic if I were at liberty to mention names; but this I cannot do, as one of the conditions on which returns were afforded was, that "all replies would be held sacred as to names." In this relation is to be remarked the fact that young women already pecuniarily independent have not avoided the "practice" after graduation from motives arising from self-indulgence or from love of ease. The record of the few upon our list who have been thus favored of fortune ranks among our best.

A *third* feature which these statistics emphasize is the cheerful contentment which claims the interested attention of one who turns the leaves of the folios of question papers, reading (as she cannot avoid doing) *between the lines.* The impression made is

that of a congenial work which whether pecuniary returns or social recognition is considered is wholly satisfactory. The physician who sends her record is not debating in her own mind whether she shall next turn her attention to the study of music or of literature, or it may be of telegraphy. She has found her calling in life; it is soul-satisfying; she is attending faithfully to its demands with no thought of change. That this is great gain for man or woman none will deny; but that it is a dominant characteristic of the professional life of woman physicians as shown by actual statistics is a matter of sincere congratulation. The true animus of each life is fitly expressed in those ever-memorable words of Prof. Preston, written in 1867: "For us it is the post of restful duty, the place assigned to us by the order of Providence, and we cannot do other than maintain it."

This college "story" would be incomplete were grateful acknowledgment to the alumnæ of the college for valuable services rendered the cause of medical education of women omitted. The first of these in order of time, as well as of importance, relates to hospital advantages for women students. It is doubtless known to this intelligent Philadelphia audience that there stands on a plat of ground in the immediate vicinity of our own well appointed college building, buildings owned and occupied by the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia. For the first time in the world's history there is here a Woman's Hospital, managed solely by women in its financial, as well as in its administrative departments. Its record is without a blemish, and the progress of the good work is upward and unfaltering. When the history of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania shall be written, the future historian will dwell with great satisfaction upon the heroic support which women here afforded women in the hour of extreme discouragement. When, after ten years of earnest effort in the pursuit of medical knowledge, it became evident that the doors of the renowned clinics of Philadelphia were persistently closed to women students, a serious doubt as to the possibility of properly educating women for the manifold duties of medical practice arose. Without bedside teaching didactic lectures failed of their high purpose. It was at this juncture that the courageous Dr. Ann Preston, member of the first graduating class of the College, so weak as to her fragile form, so strong in the might of a holy purpose, resolved that clinical teaching should be had. Faithfully throughout one year she threaded the streets of Philadelphia and the roads of suburban districts. It was while thus engaged that she made this record in her diary: "I went to every one who I thought would give me either money or influence." As a result, funds were pledged, influential women interested, and, in 1860, a charter was obtained which sets forth as the object of the corporation a three-fold

purpose, viz.: "To establish a hospital for the treatment of the diseases of women and children, for the practical training of nurses, and for furnishing facilities for clinical instruction to women engaged in the study of medicine." Important as are the first two objects, the last will, in the history of the allied institutions, stand pre-eminent, for its accomplishment saved the cause of medical education for women in Philadelphia when it had well-nigh failed, not from lack of students, or of able professors, or of money, or of friends, but through lack of clinical instruction.

The Scripture, "Whosoever hath, to him shall be given," has since been fulfilled in the progressive unfolding of hospital teaching afforded our students in other hospitals of Philadelphia, and "the end is not yet."

Another alumna contributed to securing clinical advantages also, but in quite another way. She was a member of the third graduating class (1854). She had entered upon the study of medicine for the express purpose of going to Asia as a medical missionary. She is described in well authenticated documents in my possession as a young woman of rare gifts and graces, combining "womanly dignity of character with refinement of manners." Having received her degree as stated, she realized her unpreparedness to enter upon the practice of medicine in foreign lands without hospital training, and, in company with other members of the class, sought access to the wards of the different hospitals of the city. Every effort in this direction having failed, she applied, supported by the powerful influence of Mrs. S. J. Hale, for the situation of a head nurse in the Philadelphia Hospital. This she obtained, the immediate care of the woman's wards being assigned her, with access to cases of interest in any part of the institution. In this laborious position she faithfully wrought three years; at the expiration of this time, realizing that her purpose was accomplished to the extent possible in her limited sphere, she applied to the missionary board of the church of which she was a member, to be sent out as a missionary physician. This they positively declined to do, stating as a reason for denying the request that the Board would not send out single women. Foiled in the accomplishment of this cherished purpose of her life, and seeing no other way to compass her desire to carry healing mercies to the daughters of Asia, she remained in her position at Blockley, serving as before.

When, several years later, Matthew Vassar was making up his corps of noble women for the faculty of Vassar College, the claims of this cultured lady were presented by influential friends. As a result, President Raymond invited her to occupy the chair of Physiology and Hygiene, and the post of Resident Physician in the institution when it should be opened, and she accepted. She resigned her position, and looked forward to release

from arduous duties. Before the expiration of the term of her engagement, she was smitten with fever, at the time epidemic in the wards, and died an employé in Blockley Hospital, January 28th, 1865; and yet four years after her death, for the first time in the annals of Philadelphia, a distinguished clinical lecturer* began his lecture in the amphitheatre of the same hospital in which this woman physician had wrought unrecognized seven years, with words of welcome to "*Ladies* and Gentlemen," the Class of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania having been admitted to attendance as students of medicine.

But the valuable ministry of Dr. Elizabeth G. Shattuck did not end here. Her rejection by a Missionary Board in 1858, because she was an unmarried woman, together with other cases of a similar character, led Mrs. T. C. Doremus, of New York, Mrs. S. J. Hale of Philadelphia, and other ladies of kindred spirit in those two cities and in Boston, to form a society in 1860, whose express object was stated to be to send out single ladies as teachers or Bible-readers to the women of heathen lands. This society, which flourishes still after the death of its founders, is known as the Woman's Union Missionary Society. It may be regarded as the mother of six or more other missionary societies composed of women, and formed for the purpose of sending women to teach and to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of women in Eastern lands. Although the first society was organized in 1860, the development of the work of these Associations did not justify the employment of missionary physicians until 1870, when a graduate of this College (class of 1869) was sent out by the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church. Her destination was Bareilly, India. This lady, Dr. Clara Swain, may be regarded as the first, of a rapidly lengthening line of women missionary physicians, who, working in harmony with their associates in the zenanas of the East and the crowded abodes of China and Japan, are accomplishing a silent revolution in the condition of women, of which the world at large, little dreams.

In all, eight of our graduates have engaged in this work in Asia. Two of these, Dr. Mary Seelye and Dr. Lucilla Green-Cheney, are numbered among our alumnal dead. Dr. Mary F. Seelye graduated in 1870, and after one year spent in the Woman's Hospital in Boston, sailed for India, Wednesday, September 6th, 1871. Her destination was Calcutta, where she at once entered upon her work in connection with the Woman's Union Missionary Society. She died June 9th, 1875, aged 28 years. During the four years of her practice in Calcutta she attained a professional success which was quite remarkable. Her profession and her sex proved at once a passport to the most secluded apartments of Hindoo dwellings. The gentlemen of the medical profession, native as

* Alfred Stillé, M. D., LL. D., January 2d, 1869.

well as English, were among the first to speak her praise. They freely consulted with her and esteemed her advice of the first importance.

Before the close of her first year she established a child's hospital, the earliest of its kind in India, which called forth from the Calcutta papers many words of approval and encouragement. There was scarcely a medical man in the city who did not give it his countenance and support. Early in the fifth month of its existence the government granted to the little hospital 150 rupees per month for the ensuing year. It accommodated thirty children. During the last year of Dr. Seelye's life, there were 145 sick children in its wards. Thirteen hundred and ninety-five patients were treated in the dispensary held in the hospital building, and the number of patients visited in their homes was 860. In the midst of this abounding professional work Dr. Seelye was stricken down. She sought rest and relief from the intense heat of the city, in the mountains of Northern India. After sixteen days' illness the telegraph wires flashed back to her associates in Calcutta "Dr. Seelye has gone home." She was buried the morning after her death just as the sun was rising upon the Himalaya slopes, the pure white peaks of the snowy range looking down upon the lonely grave.

Time fails me in which to dwell upon other eloquent lives and upon other phases of this foreign work, which is destined in the order of Providence to constitute an important department of the ministry of women physicians in the future. The triumphs already wrought in those far-off lands through the agency of our own alumnæ seem in the telling, fairy tales of wonder. The royal gift to Dr. Clara Swain by an Indian prince of a property worth 30,000 rupees for the establishment of her Woman's Hospital and Dispensary, in Bareilly,* is only one of several interesting and startling experiences.

Looking out over the seas, we are constrained to exclaim, "What hath God wrought" by women for women; and looking within our College with its group of consecrated missionary students, we repeat the refrain: "Who knoweth whether we are (thou art) come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

What young woman in this large and attentive audience has not found herself on a higher plane of being, as she has listened

* In December, 1871, His Highness Nawab Mahomed Kulb Ali Khan Bahadur, of Rampore, a Mohammedan, and utterly opposed to Christianity, presented an estate adjoining the Mission premises as a site for a Woman's Hospital. He had not previously been solicited, but having given audience to Dr. Swain and her friends in his palace at Rampore, after a brief presentation of the medical work on their part, His Highness promptly appreciated the humane character of the enterprise, and at once presented his Bareilly estate as a free gift. He is reported as having said on that occasion: "Take it, take it, I give it to you with much pleasure for that purpose."

to this recital of woman's service for humanity and the Divine Master? Who of them all cannot truthfully say with one of old, "Whereas I was blind, now I see?" They are not perhaps persuaded to become physicians, but they are persuaded that womanhood of the noblest type can rise to the full possession of all its powers, and yet lose nothing in sweet grace or womanly dignity, lose nothing in love of husband or of children, or of friends, friends worthy of the name of friend.

If it be true as our statistics have shown, that an earnest purpose in life transforms invalids into healthy women, if it extracts the sting from morbid grief, if it renders that unholy thing, a marriage of convenience, inexcusable, and leaves every woman free to enter the estate of matrimony from the purest motives only, then how desirable is the possession of such a purpose!

Who shall say that they who have toiled in this good work, whose fruition in part, our eyes have beheld to-day, toiled in vain! "They who have toiled;" our souls rise up to call them blessed, ere we descend from this mount of privilege to go as we each shall, our several ways, and engage in our several rounds of duty, of pleasure, or of suffering! To enumerate those who have given to the work of our College and Hospital the fealty of their best days and noblest service, would be to pronounce names sacred in many a household represented about me. Sweet-faced Lucretia Mott, who gave us at all times the wealth of her influence, and who sat with us on the platform during successive years, when friends were few and commencement audiences small and critical; Dr. Ann Preston and Dr. Emeline Cleveland, lovely in their lives, and in their death not divided, since now they sleep side by side, not far from Lucretia's grave; in hospital service, Anne Morrison, Maria W. Horton, Amanda M. Stœver, Anna Justice Steel, Elizabeth W. Lippincott, and last as last translated, the genial, faithful Sarah B. F. Greble.

The living workers are yet with us, and need not our meed of praise; the inherent vitality of our cause is in no manner more thoroughly demonstrated than in the fact that as workers fall on sleep, new toilers arise, the ranks close solidly up, and the work with accelerated strength moves forward.

To this work for God and humanity, my young friends of the graduating class, I now dismiss you. My lips tremble with the earnestness they would fain express in this last farewell.

Let me find my benison in the proverb of the wise man paraphrased: Many daughters of Alma Mater have done virtuously: May the Class of 1881 excel them all!

# Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania

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